GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:317
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2007
UNDERGROUND MINING
Rawale Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the underground mining in the country is below its potential;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps to be taken to increase underground mining in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY)

(a) to (c) : As per information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines, mining is a site specific activity dependent on the occurrence of mineral. In view of safety and economic viability of mining of such minerals, opencast method of mining is preferred over underground mining in our country. With the enunciation of the National Mineral Policy in 1993, the mineral sector has been liberalized and economic parameters play a very important role in selecting the method of mining. It is anticipated that in future as the depth of opencast mines will reach its economically feasible limit, underground mining is likely to increase.